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NAIC AWARDS FIRST PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION TO KENTUCKY REGULATOR

Commitment to Effective, Efficient Insurance Regulation Lauded

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (Aug. 1, 2007) — The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) has awarded its first professional designation to Kathy Horsley of the Kentucky Office of Insurance. Horsley earned the Associate Professional of Insurance Regulation (APIR) designation through the NAIC's Insurance Regulator Professional Designation Program.

"We are proud that the first graduate of the Designation Program is from our state," said Kentucky Executive Director of Insurance Julie McPeak. "This program is one way we can recognize those regulators, like Kathy, whose pursuit of excellence in the regulation of insurance is a benefit to the industry and consumers alike."

Launched in October 2006, the NAIC Designation Program provides regulators with a structured professional development path for regulators at all levels of experience. There are three designation levels that regulators may work toward:

- The Associate Professional in Insurance Regulation (APIR) is ideal for regulators who have limited experience in an insurance department and want to learn the basics.
- The Professional in Insurance Regulation (PIR) is for those regulators who have more experience and want to acquire additional expertise.
- The Senior Professional in Insurance Regulation (SPIR) is designed primarily for seasoned regulators who are interested in further enhancing their knowledge of the ever-changing field of insurance regulation.

The curriculum and course requirements were established under the direction of the NAIC Designation Program Advisory Board, which is chaired by Iowa Insurance Commissioner Susan Voss and comprised of regulators from each NAIC regulatory zone.

"Designed by regulators for regulators, the Designation Program includes a course of study deemed critical for protecting consumers and regulating an increasingly complex insurance marketplace," Voss said. "Earning a professional designation through this unique program truly demonstrates a commitment to effective, efficient insurance regulation."

Horsley was presented with a certificate of achievement, a letter of congratulations from NAIC Executive Vice President and CEO Cathy Weatherford and a lapel pin signifying her successful completion of all APIR requirements.

"The NAIC has long promoted education as a key strategy for enhancing the quality of state insurance regulation," Weatherford said. "The Designation Program has taken this strategy to a new level by providing regulators with a structured, comprehensive plan for demonstrating their expertise. We congratulate Kathy on a job well done."